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Title: Need to include floods due to heavy rains in the category of National Calamity and to provide all round assistance to the flood-affected people of Vidarbha region, Maharashtra.

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (AKOLA): The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra comprising Akola, Washim, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Yeotmal and Buldhana Districts has suffered huge losses i.e. more than Rs. 5000 crore due to heavy rains triggering floods in the region in the recent past. Although the loss of several lives and livestock can not be compensated but the Central Government may provide immediate relief and assistance to the affected people of the region. Further, the people of the region have not got any relief and assistance from the Central Government despite such huge losses as the losses due to heavy rains do not come under the category of natural calamity. Therefore, it has now become imperative to include heavy rains in the category of natural calamity in order to provide immediate relief and help to the flood affected people not only in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra but also across the nation.